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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SEVENTEENTH CONVENTION OF THE SOCIETY OF
SIGMA XI

COLUMBUS, OHIO, DECEMBER 28, 1915

On December 28, 1915, the Seventeenth Convention was called to order at 4:10 P. M., in Page Hall on the Ohio State University campus, by President Charles S. Howe. He appointed as Committee on Credentials, J. F. Abbott, Chairman, of Washington University, St. Louis; R. B. Williams of the University of Iowa, Iowa City; E. P. Lewis of the University of California, Berkeley.

After receiving and inspecting credentials presented, the Committee reported the following list of delegates duly accredited to represent the chapter indicated:

Chapter	Delegates
California	E. P. Lewis
Case School	D. T. Wilson
Chicago	H. C. Cowles
Colorado	Francis Ramaley
Cornell	F. K. Richtmyer
District of Columbia	Charles Brooks
	H. Hasselbring
	Dr. L. O. Howard
Illinois	G. A. Miller
Iowa	G. F. Kay
	L. P. Sieg
	R. B. Wylie
Kansas	F. E. Kester
	U. G. Mitchell
Minnesota	H. A. Erikson
	C. O. Rosendahl
	E. C. Stakman
Missouri	A. E. Flowers
Nebraska	R. J. Pool
Northwestern	S. I. Kornhauser
Ohio	F. C. Caldwell
	Wm. McPherson
	H. Osborn

Chapter	Delegates
Purdue	H. E. Enders A. M. Kenyon
Stanford	V. L. Kellogg
Syracuse	U. W. Blackman Geo. T. Hargitt L. H. Pennington
Union	M. King
Washington University	J. F. Abbott

In addition to the delegates, the following persons were registered as present at the Convention.

Name	Chapter
Charles S. Howe	Case School
H. W. Kuhn	Ohio State University
Wm. R. Lazenby	Ohio State University
C. A. Ludwig	University of Michigan
Edward Orton, Jr.	Ohio State University
Geo. B. Pegram	Columbia University
Hortense Rickard	Ohio State University
D. A. Rothrock	University of Indiana
F. H. Safford	University of Pennsylvania
J. C. Shedd	Olivet College
A. Franklin Shull	University of Michigan
Henry B. Ward	University of Illinois

The records of the previous Convention as printed in the *QUARTERLY* for March, 1915, volume III, no 1, were on motion duly approved. The President, appointed as a Nominating Committee, to report at the close of the meeting, the following:

William McPherson, Chairman

L. O. Howard

F. K. Richtmyer

The treasurer's report was referred to the Executive Committee for audit and publication in the proceedings of the Convention.

The reports of Chapters were deferred, with the statement that they would be called for at the annual dinner announced for the evening.

A series of items was reported from the Executive Committee, as follows:

1. The amendment, offered by the Union Chapter, at the Philadelphia Convention and printed in the *QUARTERLY*, volume III,

page 8, was presented without recommendation. The amendment stands as follows:

Resolved that Article VII be amended by the insertion of the following words as Section 2, and that the present Section 2 and Section 3 become Section 3 and Section 4: "Section 2. At the annual convention of the Society preceding the one at which officers are to be elected, a Nominating Committee of five members shall be elected by a preliminary and final ballot of the chapters present. The Nominating Committee shall report to the Executive Committee, not later than ninety days preceding the date of the coming Convention, its proposed list of officers for ensuing year, and the Executive Committee shall send such list of officers to the several chapters not less than sixty days preceding the date of the coming Convention."

After discussion a motion to table the amendment was adopted.

2. The amendment offered at the Philadelphia Convention by the Kansas Chapter, printed in the *QUARTERLY*, volume III, page 8, was reported with the recommendation that it be not adopted. The amendment reads as follows:

Resolved that Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution be amended by the addition of the words: "provided said delegates represent not less than one-half of the active chapters."

A motion to adopt the amendment was lost.

3. The amendment to the Constitution, proposed by the Union Chapter and printed in the *QUARTERLY*, volume III, page 9, was reported with the recommendation that it be adopted. The amendment reads as follows:

Resolved that Article X, Section 1 of the Constitution be amended by the addition of the words: "or shall have been submitted by any chapter to the several chapters through the Executive Committee not less than ninety days prior to the date of the next coming convention."

On motion the amendment was adopted.

4. Certain amendments outlined to include means for providing for associate membership in those chapters which were desirous of trying such a plan, were presented by the Executive Committee to amend the Constitution in accordance with the following form:

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1.

After the word active, insert the word, "associate."

(The present constitution which was amended at the last convention retained the terms Alumni and Honorary Members. As the convention last

year did not see fit to eliminate the Alumni and Honorary Members, it seems best to retain them now; that is to say, that whatever changes are made now should refer to Associate Members and Associate Membership only.)

Section 2 (a) Insert the word "Active" before the words, "Members of any chapter."

Section 6. Each chapter shall have the privilege of providing in its by-laws for the election of associate members.

Section 7. When a chapter elects to have associate members, the following and no other shall be eligible to associate membership in that chapter:

(a) Any graduate student who has shown marked excellence in two or more departments of pure or applied science.

(b) Any undergraduate student who has completed the required work of the first three years and who has shown marked excellence in two or more departments of pure or applied science.

Section 8. Associate members shall have all the privileges of the active members, except the right to vote, with such other restrictions only as may be specifically stated in the Constitution of the Society, or by-laws of the chapter.

Section 9. Associate members of any chapter who may become connected with another institution at which there is a chapter whose by-laws provided for associate membership shall be entitled to enroll as associate members in the latter on presenting satisfactory credentials, but associate members of any chapter who become connected with another institution at which there is a chapter whose by-laws do not provide for associate membership, shall not be entitled to any membership in the chapter, except through specific election by the chapter.

ARTICLE IV

Election of Members

Section 1. After the word members, insert the words, "and associate members" if the chapter allows them.

ARTICLE V

Initiation

Section 2. (c) After the word active, insert the words "or associate."

Section 4. After the words "duly elected to" insert the words "active (or associate)."

After discussion the amendments were referred to the next Convention for action.

It was on motion further decided that the Executive Committee be requested to consider proper insignia for associate members in case the preceding amendment should be adopted by the national convention and to propose such modifications of the Constitution as might be demanded in accordance with the plan for amending the Constitution just adopted so that these proposals might come up for consideration at the next convention and in connection with the amendment providing for associate membership.

5. The proposal of the Kansas Chapter made at the last convention that the Executive Committee be asked to consider for report a change in the number of undergraduates that might be elected to membership, was referred to the Convention with the statement that in the opinion of the Executive Committee, no change was wise at present.

No further action was taken on this matter.

6. The Executive Committee presented the following by-law, with the recommendation that it be adopted as a rule of the Society.

"On call of the President of Sigma Xi, the Executive Committee shall hold annually at least one stated meeting, independent of other organizations, and the expenses of those in attendance shall be paid from the national treasury of Sigma Xi."

On motion the by-law was adopted, a roll call of the Chapters showing an unanimous vote in its favor.

7. The Executive Committee reported that by majority vote, it was recommended to grant a charter to the University of Pittsburgh. This action had been duly reported to the various Chapters, and was now brought up for action by the Convention.

After extended discussion involving the general question as well as the special one, a motion to grant the Charter was laid on the table.

8. The Executive Committee recommended that the customary fifty-cent assessment be laid on each active member of the Society for the year of 1916. The recommendation was on motion, unanimously adopted.

Under the heading of new business, the Secretary read a communication from the Minnesota Chapter, presenting a proposed amendment to the Constitution, which was read as follows:

"Active members of any chapter who are in arrears for dues for two years or more may, after due notification, be dropped from active membership by vote of the chapter; and the names of members so dropped shall be published in the SIGMA XI QUARTERLY."

After reading and discussion, the amendment was referred to the next convention in accordance with the Constitution of the Society.

Mr. A. E. Flowers, from Missouri, moved that the Executive Committee take steps to interest alumni members in the QUARTERLY, and to keep them in touch with the activities and purposes of the Society.

After discussion, the motion was unanimously adopted.

The delegates of The District of Columbia Chapter, proposed an amendment to Article II, Section 2 (b) of the Constitution, reading as follows:

To "Amend Article II, Section 2 (b) by omitting all after the word 'chapters' in the second line of the paragraph; so as to make it read, '(3) Membership of alumni chapters shall be composed of alumni members of collegiate chapters.'"

After discussion, this amendment was referred to the next convention in accordance with the Constitution of the Society.

Mr. Shedd of Cornell, brought before the Convention the situation in southern California, where there are many scientific men and noteworthy scientific activities, and where there is evident need of the influences that might be exerted by a chapter of Sigma Xi. He pointed out at the same time that the various institutions in that territory had probably not yet reached the point at which it would be feasible in accordance with our policy to establish chapters in them. He inquired whether there was any way in which the influences of the Society might be extended to the scientific men in that territory. The President pointed out the value of an alumni chapter, and called attention to the success which had attended the establishment of the first alumni chapter in the District of Columbia. He indicated also, the effective influences which such an organization would exert by drawing together all scientific men of research proclivities, whether working in small institutions, in special organizations like laborator-

ies, observatories, or other research foundations, or carrying on their research work under private auspices. He expressed the hope, that we might look forward to the formation of such a chapter in the region indicated, where it could clearly exert a vigorous influence for the development of research work while at the same time, it would be a helpful stimulus to the members of the organizations who are drawn together for conference and discussion.

Professor Richtmyer of Cornell, spoke on the advisability of extending the influences of the Society to other countries, and the possibility of organizing chapters in universities outside the United States. Attention was called to the fact that the phraseology of the Constitution made it possible to consider applications for granting charters from any point where interest was manifested in the movement.

The question, was on motion, referred to the Executive Committee for consideration and such action as might seem fit.

The Report of the Nominating Committee was presented, showing that the only vacancy to be filled was the position of that member of the Executive Committee, whose term expired with January 1916. The committee recommended F. E. Kester of the University of Kansas, as a member of the Executive Committee, for the term to expire January 1921.

On motion, the report was adopted, and the Secretary requested to cast the ballot of the Convention for the nominee. The ballot was cast and the election completed in due form.

After certain announcements, the Convention adjourned.

NOTE

The Minnesota and Wisconsin chapters of Sigma Xi have established for this year an exchange lectureship. President C. R. Van Hise of the University of Wisconsin addressed the Minnesota chapter in March on the Panama Canal. This lecture contained a more or less popular account of the work of the committee of scientists which recently investigated the slides at Panama. The other lecture will be given at Wisconsin in April by Dr. E. M. Freeman of the University of Wisconsin on the Red Scourge of Wheat.

W. J. MEEK, *Secretary.*